

ENNISKILLEN MODEL PRIMARY SCHOOL

March 2025

**** Website version – leaflets referred to within will be sent home via your child’s school bag on Thursday, 27th February ****

Dear Parent

You may find the following information of interest.

A few charity events of late have been well supported. Local representatives from Cancer Focus N. Ireland were delighted to receive £2,050 – retiring collections from our Christmas performances. This money will help with the opening of a Cancer Therapeutic Centre in Enniskillen this spring. A recent ‘Dress in Red’ Day helped raise £550 for Enniskillen’s Riding for the Disabled (RDA). Thank you for the contributions.

Following a lengthy reconstitution process, the Education Authority have ratified the school’s Board of Governors. Mrs K Duncan has been elected as a parent representative, Mr A Elliott has been re-elected as a parent representative and Mrs A Keys remains as teacher representative. Mrs M Hicks has taken on the role of Chairperson. Several unfamiliar faces join the Board, having been deployed by the Education Authority and Department of Education. I look forward to collaborating with all members in the period ahead as we navigate a variety of matters.

Thank you for supporting our recent P.T.A. Disco. Once again this event helped to generate much needed school funds – well over £1,000 was collected on this occasion. All was well organised by the committee.

Events planned for the remainder of this term:

Parent Teacher Association ‘SPONSORED SLIDE SCHOOL FUNDRAISER’ – a separate leaflet will be issued soon. Thank you for the support/contribution amidst a period of tough cutbacks for this and many other schools. This event will take place on **Thursday, 13th**

March and coincides with a day when children can come to school in non-uniform with a St.Patrick's Day green theme.

School will be closed for one day on Monday, 17th March - St Patrick's Day holiday.

Friday, 21st March – we plan to support 'World Down Syndrome' Day. Voluntary donations on the day will be given to MENCAP. Precise details to follow.

Another P.T.A. venture, an 'Easter Chocolate Bingo' is planned for the evening of Thursday, 10th April. Details will follow closer to the time about this novel and fun family event.

Teachers will be sending home appointment slips for **parent meetings** on Monday, 31st March – most are being scheduled for Monday, 14th April although I do know that some parents will be met earlier/later in April. In anticipation, thank you for your attendance. All will be face-to-face meetings and access to/from the school will always be via the main office entrance. If unsuitable, please let the teacher know on the appointment slip and an alternative arrangement will be facilitated. **A free child care club will operate all day on Monday, 14th April to enable parents to attend meetings – the club will be in the dining room.**

School will close for Easter on **Friday, 11th April** (at the normal time) and will not re-open again until **Monday, 28th April** – this period includes two staff development days. Detailed information will also filter home (after Easter) about important dates for next term. Part of the Easter holiday will include a multi-sports event and details will be circulated via Ross (Coach).

Many of our children are competing in various categories of the Feis this Month – choral, verse speaking, instrumental etc. Mrs Johnston and Mrs West have done much in school to profile the school's participation in this important community event – thank you to them and for your engagement/preparation. We will acknowledge all the competing children in assemblies later in March.

Many World Book Week/Day activities are being planned for early March – in/out of school. Miss Walker (Librarian) has put together a comprehensive programme to highlight the importance of developing good reading habits and enjoying the reading experience – thank you. **On this occasion, only the P1 children are being encouraged to dress up on World Book Day (Thursday, 6th)** – as a favourite character from a book, perhaps? Is open to your interpretation but going to a lot of expense is discouraged. There is no money involved on the day.

The P3 and P4 Paired Reading projects to complement this month's focus on Reading are ongoing. These help to highlight the enjoyment/importance of reading. Children benefit from good role models in/out of school who aim to enthuse positive reading experiences etc.

Information was sent home recently about P1 and P2 Reading Mornings – next week and the week after. The children love the support from home – all are very welcome.

The P2 and P5 Paired Mathematics projects are also in operation – thank you for keeping the momentum going.

Breakfast Morning – Friday, 28th March. Service will start at 8.15a.m. Thank you to Mrs McCaffrey who organises the mornings - she is ably helped by a few staff.

After school activities will operate until Thursday, 27th March. A new (shorter) programme will resume shortly after the Easter holiday.

The holiday arrangement for 2025/2026 has been posted on the school website (also attached). Please note – the school will **re-open to pupils towards the end of August** (rather than early September). This helps secure five days (as opposed to just three) of extra holidays during the rest of the year – all the other days are dictated by the EA. It is also deemed helpful if the children return to a shorter week of school after a long holiday.

Our website (www.enniskillenmodel.enniskillen.ni.sch.uk) is updated regularly and aims to provide useful information and celebrate significant events. The school and P.T.A. Facebook pages are also well

utilised. The school App is operating well (despite the initial spelling error which is taking the App designers an age to change!) As well as making payments (beyond school meals), it is also going to be used to send messages and attachments.

This school prides itself in maintaining high standards of uniform and general presentation and this is exceptionally well supported by our parents. Large, coloured hairbands are discouraged and new ear-piercing procedures will pose a problem with participation in P.E. and swimming. Variations to uniform are made for P.E. days and these are well adhered to. On other occasions proper uniform and black shoes (not boots) are expected – thank you.

Likewise, to maintain standards and instil the importance of a good work ethic, homeworks need to be monitored and signed regularly. Google Classroom is a useful source of reference – thank you for accessing.

Please ensure that the teachers/office staff are kept fully informed about changes to pick-up arrangements and contact numbers. An electronic signing in/out system operates for pick-ups during the school day.

Attendance is important and for those who miss a lot of school the impact on learning can be very noticeable by staff. Thank you for keeping absences for essential reasons only. There has been a marked improvement in the number of children arriving by 9.00a.m. this school year.

Please keep an eye out for headlice. If detected, treat and keep the school informed. This helps prevent spread.

As per previous guidance, thank you for not airing grievances/issues via WhatsApp groups or contacting other parents directly about an issue that has not been reported to school – such matters are invariably highly confidential and should be dealt with in accordance with school policy, as well as only involving those who need to/should be consulted. There will inevitably be clashes between children from time to time and these will impact on friendships. I often find most children can resolve issues by themselves and hence build on their resilience

to deal with subsequent (inevitable) situations – a fraught situation one day may not be one the next day. As adults we can sometimes be too quick to intervene and take that resilience building capacity away from children too soon. **That said, there are of course occasions when it is important that parents get in touch with school – when persistent or significant problems are problematic.** Class teachers should be contacted and they may then decide to involve me.

SUMMER SCHOOL 2025. A varied, flexible programme with numerous opening days is being offered to help keep your children busy and to cut the cost of childcare this summer. Precise details will follow closer to the time. Reminder:

- 1. Week beginning Monday, 30th June (5 days) – SCHOOL ORGANISED CLUB (all ages)**
- 2. Week beginning Monday, 7th July (5 days) – SCHOOL ORGANISED CLUB (all ages)**
- 3. Week beginning Monday, 14th July (5 days) – NO CLUBS OPERATING**
- 4. Week beginning Monday, 21st July (5 days) – STAR CAMP (Community Club)**
- 5. Week beginning Monday, 28th July (5 days) – ROSS, MULTI-SPORTS CLUB**
- 6. Week beginning Monday, 4th August (5 days) – NO CLUBS OPERATING**
- 7. Week beginning Monday, 11th August (5 days) – ROSS, MULTI-SPORTS CLUB**
- 8. Week beginning Monday, 18th August (5 days) – ROSS, MULTI-SPORTS CLUB**

I cannot stress enough about the importance of keeping children close to you when coming to/leaving school and using the lights to cross the busy adjacent roads. Children can dart very quickly and are not always visible to motorists.

Should you require further clarification on the contents of this letter or in relation to other matters, please do not hesitate to contact me. If unavailable, I will return the call.

Yours sincerely,
W. Glass